

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/059,572

Examiner

Karla Moore

Applicant(s)

STEVENS ET AL.

Art Unit

1763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 6 June 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 19-20,22-25,27,35-36,38-40,96-103,105-121,125.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 1205
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Keith Tackett on 14 August 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims **96, 98 and 99** are **amended**. See below.

Claims **122, 123 and 124** are **cancelled**.

Claim 96: An electroless substrate processing apparatus, comprising:

a moveable evaporation shield adapted to be positioned over a substrate contacting a substrate support, the moveable evaporation shield comprising a degassing membrane positioned substantially parallel to a processing surface and in communication with a plenum in communication with a low partial pressure source, wherein the moveable evaporation shield forms an adjustable gap between the degassing membrane and the substrate.

Claim 98: An electroless substrate processing apparatus, comprising:

an evaporation shield adapted to be positioned over a substrate disposed on a substrate support, the evaporation shield comprising a degassing membrane positioned substantially parallel to a processing surface and a plenum in communication with the degassing membrane, wherein a gap is formed between the degassing membrane and the substrate; and a vacuum source coupled to the plenum.

Claim 99: An electroless substrate processing apparatus, comprising: an evaporation shield adapted to be positioned over a substrate disposed on a substrate support, the evaporation shield comprising a degassing membrane positioned substantially parallel to a processing surface and a plenum

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in communication with the degassing membrane, wherein a gap is formed between the degassing membrane and the substrate; and a low partial pressure source coupled to the plenum.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest an electroless substrate processing apparatus comprising: an evaporation shield comprising a degassing membrane positioned substantially parallel to a processing surface; a plenum in communication with degassing membrane and a vacuum source, wherein a gap is formed between the degassing membrane and the substrate.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. USP 6,544,585 teaches that it is known in the art to use a substrate processing apparatus for both electroplating and electroless plating. USP 6,391,209 teaches a degassing mechanism for a plating apparatus comprising degassing membrane coupled to a vacuum source, wherein the degassing mechanism is located outside of the plating chamber.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karla Moore whose telephone number is 571.272.1440. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Parviz Hassanzadeh can be reached on 571.272.1435. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Karla Moore
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1763
15 August 2006